

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final office action dated March 11, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on April 30, 2001.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the current application. Applicant amends claims 1 and 6 to recite more clearly features of the invention that were inherent in the original claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6, 7-8, 11-12, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,175,396 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim"). Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,353 to Yarita et al. (hereinafter "Yarita").

The rejection of claims 1-5 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-5 are allowable over the cited references in that independent claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "at least one shaft member installed at the main frame to fix the optical sheets; and a panel guide, engaged in the shaft member for surrounding the backlight assembly and the "main frame." None of the cited references including Kim and Yarita, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from Kim in that in Kim the shafts 32 and 40 do not fix the optical sheets 3. Kim specifically discloses that "member 50 prevents the sheets 3 from being overly pressed by the third head 41" (Kim, column 9, line 66 through column 7, line 1). Furthermore, Kim makes clear that "a small gap exists between the sheets 3 and the third head 41 so that movement of the sheets is not restricted" (Kim, column 9, lines 17-19). In addition, the Examiner notes that the gap accommodates thermal

expansion of the sheets (Office Action, page 6), but the gap could also allow for the movement of the sheets within the space of the gap as well. Because of this gap between the sheets 3 and the third head 41, the sheets are not fixed. Furthermore, Yarita does not disclose or suggest “a panel guide, engaged in the shaft member, for surrounding the backlight assembly and the main frame” as recited by claim 1. Claims 2-5, as well as new claims 7-11, are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1.

In addition, the shafts 32 and 40 do not make contact at all with the sheets (see Figs. 4-7), therefore the shafts 32 and 40 cannot “fix the optical sheets” as recited in claim 1.

By way of further example, the structure of claim 1 of the present invention is also different from Kim in that in Kim, the shafts 32 and 40 do not “fix the optical sheets; the shaft member is between the main frame and the optical sheets.” Kim does not disclose or suggest this feature as recited in claim 1. Shafts 32 and 40, as illustrated in Figures 4-7, do not engage the panel guide “surrounding the backlight assembly and the main frame.”

Claim 6 is allowable over the cited references in that it recites a combination of elements including, for example, “optical sheets included in the backlight assembly having holes therein configured to affix to the shaft, “a panel guide, engaged in the shaft, for surrounding the backlight assembly and the main frame.” None of the cited references including Kim and Yarita, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

The structure of claim 6 of the present invention is different from Kim in that the shafts 32 and 40 do not fix the optical sheet 3 in the manner required by the claim as discussed above. Kim specifically discloses that “member 50 prevents the sheets 3 from being overly pressed by the third head 41” (Kim, column 9, line 66 through column 7, line 1). Furthermore, Kim makes clear that “a small gap exists between the sheets 3 and the third head 41 so that movement of the sheets is not restricted” (Kim, column 9, lines 17-19). In

addition, the Examiner notes that the gap accommodates thermal expansion of the sheets (Office Action, page 6), but the gap could also allow for the movement of the sheets within the space of the gap as well. Because of this gap between the sheets 3 and the second head 31 and third head 41, the sheets are not fixed. Furthermore, Yarita does not disclose or suggest “a panel guide, engaged in the shaft, for surrounding the backlight assembly and the main frame” as recited by claim 6. In addition, the shafts 32 and 40 do not make contact at all with the sheets (see Figs. 4-7), therefore the shafts 32 and 40 cannot “fix the optical sheets” as recited in claim 6.

By way of further example, the structure of claim 6 of the present invention is also different from Kim in that in Kim, there are no “optical sheets included in the backlight assembly having holes therein configured to affix to the shaft; and “a panel guide, engaged in the shaft, for surrounding the backlight assembly and the main frame”. Kim does not disclose or suggest this feature as recited in claim 6. Shafts 32 and 40, as illustrated in Figures 4-7, are not “between the main frame and the optical sheets as recited in the claim.

Furthermore, Yarita does not disclose or suggest ““a panel guide, engaged in the shaft, for surrounding the backlight assembly and the main frame” as recited by claim 6. New claims 12-15 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 6.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claim 6, and claims 2-5 and 7-11 and claims 12-15, which depend from claims 1 and 6, respectively, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to

discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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(September 11th = Saturday)

Respectfully submitted,

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